Indo-Nepal Relations

1906. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:

DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any developments or exchanges affecting Indo-Nepalese relations have taken place since the mass assassination of the royal family on 1st June, 2001; and.

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any changes or modifications in the Indo-Nepal agreement have been made or considered necessary?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Nepal is a neighbour with whom we share a very close relationship based on enduring bonds of history, geography and shared cultural values. There exists a framework of bilateral mechanisms between India and Nepal to effectively address all aspects of our relations under which interactions take place regularly. Issues relating to the Bilateral Trade Treaty, demarcation of boundary and water resources co-operation were discussed by the two sides since June this year.

India's endeavour has been, and will always be, to address our bilateral problems amicably and resolve them expeditiously consistent with the perceptions, concerns and aspirations of the peoples of the two countries. The External Affairs Ministers visited Nepal from August 17 to 19, 2001 to personally convey our deepest condolences to His Majesty the King of Nepal on the grievous tragedy in the Royal family in June this year and to reaffirm our commitment to building further on our existing close relationship and cooperation to Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. During this visit, he also took the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern with the Nepalese leadership and the meeting he had were most fruitful, constructive and forward looking.

Discussions are currently in progress between the technical

delegations of the two sides to resolve certain issues that have emerged during the implementation of the 1996 India—Nepal Trade Treaty prior to the extension of the validity of this Treaty for another five years. A joint Technical Level Committee on India—Nepal Boundary (JTC) is working on the reconfirmation of the coordinates of the boundary pillars and re-demarcation of the alignment of the boundary through joint field verification. There has also been some progress in recent times in the area of cooperation in water resources. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 6,500 MW Pancheshwar Project is under preparation by a Joint Team of Technical Experts and is expected to be completed next year. A decision has also been taken by the two governments to set up a Joint Project Office to facilitate work on the DPR of the Sapta Koshi and Sun Koshi Project.

Double role being played by Pakistan

1907. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the "Dainik Jagran" New Delhi on November, 3, 2001, to the effect that 1,400 Pakistani Jehadis had crossed over to Afghanistan to help the Taliban in their fight against the US bombings and its "War against terror" and that another 9000 Jehadis had been waiting to cross the border along Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to invite attention of the US and other big powers to the double role of side with the US in its fight against terrorism while covertly helping the Taliban by looking the otherway as Jehadis cross into Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS /SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report appearing in the Dainik Jagran on 3rd November, 2001.

It is widely known that Pakistan decided to show support the campaign in Afghanistan against terrorism, because of the extreme international pressure that was brought to bear on it, and not out of its own choice. In an address to the nation on 19th September, 2001,